

I am aware that the FCC is currently moving to lift the ban on a company owning both a television station and a newspaper in the same geographic area. I urge you to reconsider this rule-change.

The FCC is in place to serve the interests of the public. The public is in no way served when all the major media outlets in a region are controlled by a single company. The clear effect of such monolithic control is to reduce the amount and the quality of news reaching a community. The fact that a single group would be able to control much of what the people of a single region see and hear from their news outlets is chilling. When governments do this, we call the nations in question 'banana republics.' The only difference here is that corporations are not accountable to the public, except insofar as their monopolistic impulses are reigned in by institutions designed to protect and to speak for the public interest. I again urge the FCC to act in the interests of the public, and retain the rule barring cross ownership in a single geographic area.